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The entrance of America into the war brings with it the optimistic hope that she will be able to inculcate into the warring Powers new principles of internationalism which will prevent rather than accentuate the insensate ambitions of the past.

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

RAYMOND L. BUELL.

VIEWING DR. FLEXNER WITH ALARM

Sir,—It is not without painful and justifiable alarm that we read of Dr. Abraham Flexner's plan to open a modern school at Teachers' College of Columbia University, the curriculum of which will discard "uncongenial and obsolete classics" "in favor of those studies for which an affirmative case may be made out."

That such a man as Dr. Flexner would consider offering an anti-cultural curriculum is incredible; that he sets at naught those subjects which have through the ages contributed to the softening of barbaric tendencies is appalling; that he has the prestige of a great university is almost criminal. (Were it not a platitude, we would say that Germany is a fair example of the Utilitarian Idea raised to the tenth power.)

If Dr. Flexner's efforts could be limited to a private clientele which, in pitiable ignorance of the higher purposes of education, was willing to accept a base metal for gold, his influence would not be a national menace. Certainly the deficiencies of our present school system are not due to a preponderance of cultural studies that is "damaging good taste," as he would have us believe, but rather to the lamentable groping with "methods."

Dr. Flexner's idea is not new; it has been followed, probably not in theory, for many years, in a large section of this country, with the resultant crudeness of society delighting in cheap amusements, inflaming literature, and a loathing of dignified repose at all times. In your December 1916 issue a most convincing article by Margaret Sherwood anent the question of culture sounded a note of warning which evidently was not sufficiently loud.

Perhaps you Easterners chuckled at Dr. Flexner's daring, and straightaway forgot him, but to us who send to Columbia hundreds of teachers who regard as gospel all they hear, it is not a movement to be ignored.

Can't you publish something that will awaken a widespread revolt against such fallacies?

ORANGE, TEX.

MARY S. HEMSON.

OUR SOLDIERS "WITHOUT A COUNTRY"

SIR,—This country contains a special group of citizens numbering some ten or twelve millions. They are, almost without exception, native-born. A large proportion of them have a longer American pedigree than either Colonel Roosevelt or President Wilson. Fifty thousand of their fathers and grandfathers fought as volunteers in the United States Army between 1861 and 1865. Many of their youths today are in the army. Many more are eager to enter it. In General Carter's article, printed in your November issue, he gives a list of the number of the workers in a

Western establishment, classified according to the nations they represent. The list is headed "Nationality," and begins thus: "Americans, 1,522." This is followed by such proper designations of people belonging to thirty-two different nationalities as "Armenians," "Welsh," etc. Then comes just an adjective, not a national name, for the thirty-third group; "Colored," with its number in service, "433." After that the list resumes its proper method and gives correct national titles to three other sets of workers, even where only a single person represents his particular nation, as "Finlander."

Why should nationality be tacitly denied to any group of American citizens? Is it likely to stimulate patriotism to be thus left drifting "without a country" by a General of the United States Army, with an adjective tossed at them to hold on to? If for any reason in General Carter's argument it was, as it may well have been, desirable to indicate racial difference, the part of a patriot and a great official should have been to make that indication respectfully. His list should have been worded:

"White Americans, 1522."
"Colored Americans, 443."

NEWTONVILLE, MASS.

LILLIE BUFFUM CHACE WYMAN.

SEND T. R. TO RUSSIA

Sir,—I have read with much interest "The Problem of our Colonel" in the current issue of the REVIEW, and, in my opinion, the problem could easily be solved if the President would sink his personal feeling against him and adopt the suggestion of Mr. Snodgrass, our Consul-General at Moscow.

You may recall that the latter, upon his return from Russia, in an interview as to the conditions prevailing in that country, concluded by saying that there was just one man who could offset the German propaganda and convince the Russian people that we were with them heart and soul in their struggle, and that man was Colonel Roosevelt.

The Root Commission was well enough in its way, but the members were not known to the mass of the people, and more than this, they (the people) were not in a condition to appreciate cold logic and be told in stately phrases what we proposed to do, because they were afire with their new-found power and needed some one like themselves to weld the differing classes into a harmonious whole—someone who was known to them as a man of action and sincerity. In this connection I will venture the assertion that there is not a Vilayet in Russia where the name and fame of Colonel Roosevelt are not known, and where he would not be received with enthusiasm.

Thousands of American, Democrats and Republicans alike, feel that the President is playing pretty small politics in studiously ignoring the Colonel, and they naturally resent it for practical as well as patriotic reasons.

NEW YORK CITY.

O. T. ROBERTS.

YOUTH AS AMERICA

SIR,—In reading Mrs. Bishop's letter in a recent issue of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW on the "American look," it has occurred to me that